

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for paying a carrier located in a second country for mail that has been deposited and paid for by a sender to a first carrier located in a first country to be delivered by a second carrier located in a second country to a recipient located in the second country, comprising the steps of:
  - charging a sender's meter for mail that is being deposited with a first carrier;
  - transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center;
  - transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center located in the first country the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and
  - transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center located in the second country the funds attributable to the second carrier.
2. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the funds attributable to the first country carrier are determined by the following steps:
  - determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;
  - determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and
  - determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.
3. (Original) The method claimed in claim 2, further including the step of determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.
4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the funds attributable to the second country carrier are determined by the following steps:

determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;  
determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and  
determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.

5. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the step of determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.
6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:  
scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country; and  
scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country, whereby funds are transferred from the first meter payment data center to the second country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country.
7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
placing a unique identification code on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.
8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
placing a unique identification number on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.
9. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:  
scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country;  
scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country; and

Appln. No.: 10/674,134

Amendment Dated: February 20, 2007

Reply to Office Action dated November 29, 2006

notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country.

10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:  
delivering the mail to the recipient; and  
notifying the sender of the recipient's receipt of the mail.